

2011

HUNTING UPDATE



STATE SENATOR JOE HUNE

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Use the QR reader on your
smartphone to go directly to
www.SenatorJoeHune.com

Dear Friend:

With autumn in the air, Michigan's hunting heritage takes center stage. Whether you hunt deer, turkey, waterfowl or small game, our state has some of the best opportunities around.

As you plan your fall trip, I wanted to send along some hunting information. Along with a legislative report, this newsletter provides safety tips, hunting resources and more. I hope you find it useful.

Hunters are important to Michigan, contributing not only to wildlife management and conservation, but providing a major economic boost to our state. In fact, hunters pump \$2 billion into the economy each year!

I am committed to preserving our hunting tradition and welcome your ideas on ways to get more hunters in the field.

Best wishes for a safe and successful hunting season!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Hune".

State Senator Joe Hune

**"Hunters are important to Michigan,
in fact, hunters pump \$2 billion
into the economy each year!"**

—Joe Hune

SEN HUNE'S HUNTER HERITAGE LEGISLATION PASSED INTO LAW

One of the best ways to protect our hunting heritage is to bring more young hunters into the field at an earlier age.

A new law will do just that by allowing minors under the age of 10 to hunt game under close supervision in a new mentored youth hunting program.

The law also creates a special mentored youth hunting license. It allows young hunters to hunt deer, turkey, and small game, trap fur-bearers, and fish for all species.

The Natural Resources Commission is developing the program which is expected to start in the 2012 license year.

Public Acts 109 and 120 (SB 207 and HB 4371) are modeled after a similar Pennsylvania law that has encouraged tens of thousands of young people to hunt with a mentor while learning proper safety and ethics.

Surprisingly, Michigan has one of the lowest hunter recruitment rates in the country. These young hunters will be an integral part of strengthening our "great outdoors" tradition.

I was proud to receive the Michigan United Conservation Club's *2011 Youth Conservationist of the Year* award as the sponsor of SB 207.



DEER HUNTING UPDATE

A LOOK AT LAST YEAR

Following a decline in 2009, the number of people hunting deer in 2010 was down another 4 percent to 656,500 hunters. Hunters harvested nearly 418,000 deer, a decrease of 6 percent from the previous year.

Statewide, 44 percent of hunters harvested a deer, a slight uptick from 2009; about 15 percent harvested two or more deer.

About 90,600 hunters used a crossbow during the 2010 archery season, harvesting roughly 38,000 deer with the crossbow.



A LOOK AHEAD – 2011 SEASONS

- **EARLY FIREARM SEASON:** (antlerless deer on private land only in Open DMUs) Sept. 15-19
- **YOUTH AND 100 PERCENT DISABLED VETERANS DEER HUNT:** Sept. 24-25
- **SPECIAL DISABLED FIREARM HUNT:** Oct. 13-16
- **ARCHERY SEASON:** Oct. 1-Nov. 14 and Dec. 1-Jan. 1
- **REGULAR FIREARM SEASON:** Nov. 15-30
- **MUZZLELOADING SEASON:**
 - Zone 1 (UP): 10 days starting 1st Friday in December Dec. 2-11
 - Zone 2 (NLP): 10 days starting 2nd Friday in December Dec. 9-18
 - Zone 3 (SLP): 17 days starting 1st Friday in December Dec. 2-18
- **LATE FIREARM SEASON:** (antlerless deer on private land only in Open DMUs) Dec. 19-Jan. 1



**Consult the 2011 Hunting Guide for restrictions and more information*



BAIT RESTRICTION LIFTED

A June decision by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) has lifted the ban on deer-baiting.

Between Oct. 1 and Jan. 1, hunters can put up to two gallons of bait across a 10-foot by 10-foot area per hunting location.

However, the ban remains in effect in Alcona, Alpena, Iosco, Montmorency, Oscoda and Presque Isle counties, the six-county Bovine Tuberculosis zone in northeastern lower Michigan.

The ban was put in place in 2008 when chronic wasting disease was discovered in a captive deer in Kent County. The disease can be fatal and is easily spread between animals that gather in confined areas, such as around piles of feed - typically carrots, corn, beets or apples.

Since the 2008 discovery, no other case has been detected.

The NRC decision comes with a three-year sunset, meaning the baiting issue will be reconsidered in 2014.

GET IT DONE ONLINE

One of the best things about hunting is getting out and enjoying the full flavor of Michigan's great outdoors!

But you can streamline preparations for your trip online from the comfort of your own easy chair.



Buy your hunting license

www.mdnr-elicence.com

Find public hunting land

www.michigan.gov/mihunt

Make campground reservations

www.midnrreservations.com

Access the 2011 hunting guides

www.michigan.gov/dnrhunting

Check your wildlife lab results

<https://secure1.state.mi.us/testresults>

Take a hunting safety class

www.dnr.state.mi.us/recnsearch

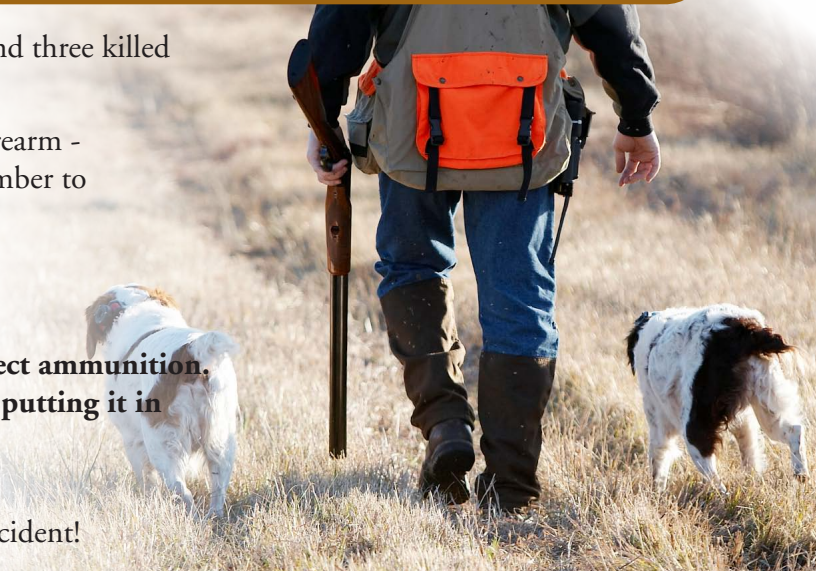
HUNE REMINDS HUNTERS: SAFETY FIRST

Michigan's 2010 hunting season recorded 11 people injured and three killed by firearms.

Most of the casualties were due to the careless handling of a firearm - and were entirely preventable. Before heading outdoors, remember to hunt with safety in mind and follow basic gun safety rules:

- **Always have complete control of your firearm.**
- **Always treat your firearm as if it was loaded.**
- **Before firing, know your target and what is beyond.**
- **Be sure the gun is safe to operate and use only the correct ammunition.**
- **Unload your firearm when not in use; especially before putting it in your vehicle or camp.**
- **And, NEVER mix hunting and alcohol.**

Hunting is a safe outdoor sport, but that doesn't happen by accident!



IT'S ALL DEER, ALL THE TIME!

Visit <http://deer.fw.msu.edu> for all the information you need to hunt white-tailed deer, including daily updates during firearm season. The website covers everything from deer biology to hunting regulations to the newest research.

The site is a joint effort between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University.



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DNR Resource Guide

Wildlife Division.....	517.373.1263
Fisheries	517.373.1280
Parks & Recreation	517.373.9900
Forest Management.....	517.373.1275
Law Enforcement.....	517.373.1230
Report All Poaching.....	1.800.292.7800

Note: Phone numbers are subject to change



THE HUNT OF A LIFETIME

Hunters: don't pass up the chance to participate in Michigan's limited-license hunts. Apply for the 2012 Pure Michigan Hunt now until December 31.

The special hunting package provides the opportunity to purchase licenses for elk, bear, antlerless deer, and turkey. Pure Michigan hunters can also pick a first selection at a managed waterfowl area during the reserved hunt period.

Three lucky hunters will be selected in a random draw in January 2012.

Hunters can apply at all license agent locations and online under E-license. Each application costs \$4 and hunters can apply as many times as they wish.

Last year's Pure Michigan Hunt raised \$94,000 for the state Game and Fish Fund. Find out more at www.michigan.gov/puremichiganhunt.

